



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Wednesday, 11 October 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Driving Export Growth for Queensland: 2006-2011

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.50 am): Queensland continues to lead Australia as the fastest growing exporter of goods overseas. In 2005 Queensland's exports rose 34.2 per cent to \$35.4 billion and set a new record for the state. To maintain this momentum, on Monday, 9 October at the launch of Export Week 2006 I released my government's new five-year export strategy, *Driving Export Growth for Queensland*. I table a copy of the report and supporting documentation.

Tabled paper: Report titled 'Driving export growth for Queensland 2006-2011' and associated documents.

I seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* the remainder of my ministerial statement.

Leave granted.

This strategy is our forward plan to diversify our export base and continue Queensland's international reach.

Not only does it build on our strengths in natural resources and primary production, it also addresses the role our knowledge-intensive exports will play in the years ahead, and the needs of emerging sectors, such as biotechnology and the creative industries.

Our strategy details initiatives that will further support Queensland businesses as they continue the march overseas, including a new statewide Export Advisory Service, dedicated export strategies for target markets including China, India and the Middle East, and a greater presence in-country.

We will also be boosting our international visibility under the banner of Trade Queensland to build on our international profile as the trade partner of choice.

I would like to inform the House that I will be visiting New Zealand between the 27th and 29th of October to promote Queensland as the first choice for future investment.

Currently, New Zealand is Queensland's 7th largest export destination, with \$907 million in merchandise goods exported during the past financial year.

I will be attending meetings with Prime Minister Helen Clarke, along with industry and business representatives to discuss the potential for our countries to collaborate in areas of respective expertise.

Additionally, I will be visiting Auckland's new Starship Children's Hospital to see first-hand this major project which may have applications for the new Queensland Children's Hospital at the Mater.

Mr Speaker, extending our global reach and nurturing our international trade relationships are fundamental for sustaining export growth, and my Government is delivering.